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## **Soldier recovering well in Landstuhle, Germany after RPG ambush**

AD-DULULYA, Iraq (February 6, 2006) – A Soldier with Alpha Company, 1-8<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 3<sup>rd</sup> HBCT, 4ID, Task Force Band of Brothers, is in stable condition and good spirits after sustaining sever shrapnel injuries to his left arm and ear when his up armored HUMVEE was hit by an RPG. SPC Kevin Spangler was riding in the gunner position during a routine combat route clearing mission when his patrol was ambushed.

The RPG hit the top of the turret where Spangler was seated. Following their unit's procedures for reacting to direct contact, Spangler's team quickly moved to safety, while their Combat Life Saver gave quick and critical care to Spangler's wounds.

Due to the expeditious reaction to the ambush on all levels, no other Soldiers were wounded, and Spangler bleeding was stopped without the need of a tourniquet.

"The actions of the CLS all the way up to the Platoon Sergeant were outstanding," said 1<sup>st</sup> Sergeant Darrel Dean, 1<sup>st</sup> Sergeant for A. Co., 1-8<sup>th</sup>. "Without there un-hesitated actions... I truly believe they saved SPC Spanglers life."

From the time of the incident to the time the Spangle was being treated at LSA Anaconda's medical facility was about 25 minutes. Dean said this timeline is "text book" and could not have been any better.

Besides the rapid response and prompt medical care given to Spangle, it's also because of his Dorsal Auxiliary Protection System – additional upper body kevlar – that prevented his arm wounds from being even worse.

DAPS connects to the Individual Body Armor System, more commonly known as the protective vest. Once connected, it drapes over the shoulders and upper arm to about the elbow. Dean said that with out a double, Spangler would have obtained more injuries had it not been for this protective gear, mandatory for gunners leaving their FOBs.

Spangler was moved to Landstuhle after receiving initial medical care at Anaconda. Since being at Landstuhle, Spangler has been is good spirits, joking with his nurses and doctors. Dean said Spangler is amusing his visitors with his loud conversations. "Because of the ear injury, he yells a lot now." This is due to some hearing loss. Doctors believe it is a temporary condition.